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A
VINDICATION
OF
POPE AND GRATTAN,
FROM THE
ATTACK
OF AN
ANONYMOUS DEFAMER.

—*—
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OF EMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

—*—
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1799.

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THE
POTTER AND GRAY

ATTORNEYS

AND SOLICITORS

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

IN SENIOR PARTNERSHIP

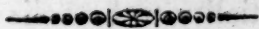
100 NASSAU ST. N.Y.

ESTABLISHED 1840

1880

VINDICATION,

&c.



TO defend an admired Poet, and a persecuted Patriot, from the virulence of an anonymous scribbler, is a task I feel an impulse to undertake, from a love of liberty and poetry, which have in all ages been united;* a task now only difficult because it is dangerous: For, in these times, whoever dares to breathe a sentiment of liberty which does not suit the delicate taste of the Attorney-General, stands a chance to be provided with apartments in the prison of Clerkenwell or Newgate. But I will promise him, that nothing will be produced
here

* See Akenfide's Ode to the Earl of Huntingdon.

here which has not passed unmolested for fifty or a hundred years; and that, if I offend him, he will offend against the principles of the Revolution. I have a better opinion of his taste and liberality, than to suppose he will revile the doctrines which Pope delivered in poetry, and Locke in prose; but, if he should think of a prosecution, I will tell him, that I only meant to be facetious, and trust to his candor and impartiality to be believed.*

Having for some time intended to publish my remarks on the merits and tendency of the *Pursuits of Literature*, this pamphlet ought not regularly to appear till the main work had been first noticed; but, as the time is urgent, I thought it best not to lose the opportunity of expressing my sentiments of an author, whose principles and manner of delivering them are equally contemptible.

To a man so full of spleen and malice, an occasion is seldom wanting to give them vent; but none could have been found more awkward or ill-suited than the present. That the political exertions of Mr Grattan should have called forth

* The Affair of the Rev. A. Young.

forth the rancour of Pope, who was certainly not the best-tempered poet in the world, there seems no just ground to believe ; for Pope was the friend of patriots, less guarded in their opposition to Government than him, and more equivocal in the tendency of their exertions ;—men who suffered the severest punishment their country could inflict, for their convicted treason ;—men who spoke the language of liberty in terms as strong and ardent as any patriot of the present day ;—men who, neither in their politics nor their religion, accorded with the established Government :—Yet such men were praised, loved, and cherished, by the poet who is now made to revile Henry Grattan ; a man to whom no treason has been imputed, but “ by the doubtful evidence of one person, while that which went to clear him of every imputation was carefully suppressed.”* Such was the poet through whose mouth this malignant defamer has chosen to spit his own spleen, against virtuous and independent men.

Why

* Dr Lawrence's Speech in the House of Commons, Feb. 11, 1799.

Why this same poet, who had received into his house the traitor St John, the persecuted Atterbury, and the patriot Wyndham, should shudder at the approach of Grattan, and in his fright deliver such rugged rhimes, it is difficult to perceive. Principles are not so much changed with times, as to make what he esteemed as virtue then, to be vice now ; and surely Pope could not have been more subject to alarm in these times, than he was in his own, when a rebellion was actually in existence and in force. Let us spare him the shame of such apostacy, and examine his life and writings, to see if any such vast difference exists between his principles and those of Mr Grattan, as to make him the object of his dread and horror.

Pope was, without doubt, a friend to Monarchy,—and so is Grattan ; but of Monarchy so limited as not to encroach on the rights of the people ;—of Monarchy which acknowledges its dependence on their will ;—of Monarchy which exercises mildly the power with which it is entrusted, and makes the happiness of the people, not its own splendor, the object of its administration. Such Monarchy Pope ap-

approved ; and if he had lived in the present day, we have little doubt what must have been his conduct. But, though Pope loved Monarchy, he seems to have had no great reverence for Monarchs and for Courtiers ; he considers neither as less subject to the frailties of human nature than other men : And if he seems to speak of them with more than usual contempt, it is an evidence that he was not superstitiously attached to either. I will, without hesitation, refer to many passages of his works, to prove his opinion on this subject : If it is deemed criminal, I am prepared to suffer ; for we have nothing left worth preserving, if it is libellous to quote Pope, or defend Grattan.—Among Peers and Courtiers, it is true, he lived, though he admired them not as such, but because they were ennobled by other titles than those which Kings can give : He loved them for their virtues and their talents ; others in that rank, who possessed neither, he never hesitated to expose to contempt. But for the people, he had a sincere affection : He considered all power as derived from them, and exercised for their benefit ;—he looked on
 them,

them, not as brutes, who must be made to labour ; but as men, who are born to think ;— he pitied their wants, he respected their rights, and he bowed to their judgment.

Such were his own principles, and such the principles of his friends, in opposition to a corrupt and overbearing Ministry ; such was the tendency of their writings, and their patriotic exertions.

It is worthy of remark, to shew how little dependence is to be placed in names, that the works and speeches of the Tories, who are said to be the friends of arbitrary power, contain the most democratic sentiments, the strongest arguments for the rights of the people ;— and it is a singular fact, that every encroachment which has been made on the principles of the Revolution, has been the work of the Whigs.—I refer my readers to the debates on the famous Septennial Bill ; which was the first attack on our liberties, made in a moment of alarm ; they will there see, that all the popular speeches were made by the Tories ; among which, those of two of Mr Pope's friends are particularly worthy of note,—those of Mr Hutchinson

chinson and Sir W. Wyndham:—They both contain words too forcible not to be read with interest in the present times.

Such were the sentiments and such the conduct of Mr Pope's friends; and though he took no part in politics, he has expressed sentiments similar to theirs in his works and correspondence: And there is no ground to believe, that he could have approved the destruction of his fellow-citizens, by the horrid means of whipping, burning, and torturing. He reprobated, in his own times, every encroachment on popular rights, under the pretence of preserving the Constitution; and it is impossible to suppose he could have done otherwise now.

Whoever wishes for any farther evidence, that the political sentiments of Pope were not such as our Author represents them, need only look into his Life, by Johnson; for that surly Tory has spoken of him with the same blind malignity he has done of every man's writings who favoured liberty; see his Lives of Milton, Dyer, Lyttleton, and Akenfide. A man, who seriously maintained that *Whig* and *Scoundrel* were synonymous terms, deserves little credit
for

for his opinion: I only cite it to prove a fact, and for no other purpose.—*Life of Pope*, p. 77, 78, 99, 153. Edit. of Hawkins.

Pope was never a party man, he was the friend of no Administration; but the constant enemy of power, by whomsoever misemployed: He was equally averse to Walpole and to Pulteney, as may be seen in his correspondence; which is sufficient to convince any man, that he could never have been the friend of the present measures. And if any man wishes for further conviction on the subject of his principles, and that of his friends, let him read the *Patriot King*; and recollect, that that work was committed to him to print and distribute *privately*. Such is the man who is to be ashamed of Grattan!

But I will now advert to the other part of my subject: And here I must premise, that I will not undertake to vindicate the whole of Mr Grattan's public conduct, because it has not been consistent; but I will endeavour to free him from the charge of sedition or rebellion, to which no man is more averse.

The

The principal features in his political life, are his eloquent pleadings for the liberty of his country, in the removal of those restrictions on her trade, which every liberal statesman has confessed to be one of the principal causes of her degradation. His ever famous struggle for the repeal of the Poynings and Declaratory Acts, and his exertions against the Irish Propositions, are worthy of every praise. Next was his proposal for the Commutation of Tithes, and the Improvement of Waste Lands: To not one of which any honest man can attach the slightest shade of censure or suspicion.

After this comes a part of his life, over which it were to be wished a dark veil could be for ever drawn: But such is the weakness of our nature, that no man is wise alike at all times. I allude to his approbation of the present war, when his friend, Lord Fitzwilliam, came into power, and his change of opinion after he went out. He has lived, I trust, to repent of his error, and will be forgiven by those who most widely differed from him. His conduct, ever since the symptoms of rebellion began to appear, has been such as no man could be ashamed
 B of,

of, who is known to be a friend to Monarchy.

—His Address to his Electors seems to have given undeserved offence; for its faults are in the expressions more than the sentiments: He seeks throughout to say common things in an uncommon way: The phraseology is affected, but the ideas are plain; they are such as every zealous friend to liberty has many times expressed, and can never be too often repeated. And, indeed, it is the language only that our critic has laid hold of; for, of the few passages which he has produced, not one contains an expression hostile to the Constitution throughout, and only one attacks the Ministry: But they have indeed so far now identified themselves with the Constitution, that attachment to the one and the other seems to be considered by them and their adherents as synonymous.

Thus far I have attempted to vindicate Mr Grattan, and to shew that he and Pope differ not in their political sentiments; and I am strongly of opinion, that the anonymous defamer, who maintains the contrary, has neither thoroughly read the one, nor understood the other. From such a similarity of sentiment, if

Mr

Mr Pope had been alive at the present day, no man's door could have opened wider to receive virtue in distress; and I rejoice in the idea of thus bringing together the patriot and the poet, whom the cruel malignity of an anonymous libeller has endeavoured wickedly to make at variance.

To prove that Pope was a liberal, nay more, a licentious writer, I will refer to many passages in his works, because they are long, and because they may be misconstrued; others I will produce.

First, then, in his *Windsor Forest*, from line 43 to 92.

Not thus the land appear'd.
Beasts urg'd by us their fellow beasts pursue,
And learn of man each other to undo.

[See, too, *Ethic Epistles*, iii. line 162.]

Can there be a stronger satire on mankind?—

—His *Eulogium on Peace* is not exceeded by St Pierre, nor Emanuel Kant; two writers who have formed projects for a perpetual Peace.—First chorus to the Tragedy of *Brutus*, 2d Antistrophe.—*Essay on Criticism*, line 64, 65, 90, 164.

Numberless passages in his works prove that he was no bigot in religion, nor indeed attached

to any particular system of belief: He never speaks of his being a Papist but with jocularly.

—Lines 398. 419. 590.

No poet was more delicately indecent than Pope; and, at times, none more grossly so.—In the *Epistle of Eloisa*, an instance of the first is to be found, from line 160. to 127. line 186. 223. to 240.—Of the second, in the *Rape of the Lock*, line 54. *Sappho to Phaon*, 49 to 62. The whole of the *Poems of January*; and most of the *Imitations of the Poets*.

Of the moral system of the *Essay on Man*, enough has been said by Johnson: It is, however, sufficient to prove Pope a Deist, if it had not been done from his *Universal Prayer*.

On the vanity of titles, and the follies of Popery, no one has spoken more freely: See *Ethic Epistles*, ii. line 276. 282. For his notions of Kingly authority, see *Epist. iii.* 240.—and of Kings, 280. 290. 301. *Epist. iv.* 154. 205. to 216. *Moral Essays*, i. 135. to 148.—Had he lived in the present day, his lively *Satire against Bank-Notes* must have insured him the enmity of Ministry, who have left us nothing else. For ever speaking contemptuously of Kings and Nobles,

Nobles.—Essay iii. 286. to 247. *Imitation of Horace*, first Epist. lib. i. line 97.

How could he have avoided our grave Author's displeasure, for his ludicrous account of psalm-singing in a country Church?—Epist. i. line 229. to 240. Epist. ii. line 106. *Satires of Dr Donne*. Sat. ii. 77, 78. 136. See how he speaks of Bishops, and in other places too:—Satire iv. at Lords again, 195 to 200. *Epistle to the Satires*, 139. *Epistle to the Satires*, Dialogue ii. line first and second. We see he wrote then on the verge of the law.

Of his general philanthropy we have many proofs; this among others,

And mine as man, who feel for all mankind.—Line 294.

—I will not multiply passages from his poetical works to prove the truth of what I have maintained; whoever takes the trouble to read them with a little more attention than our Author has done, will easily be convinced. But we now refer to his prose Letter to Sir W. Trumbull.—“Fire and sword, and fire and faggot, are equally my aversion: I can pray for opposite parties, and for opposite religions, with great sincerity. I think, to be a lover of one's country

country is a glorious eulogy; but I do not think it so great a one as to be a lover of mankind. I sometimes celebrate you under these denominations, and join your health with that of the whole world;—a truly catholic health, which far excels the poor, narrow-spirited, ridiculous healths now in fashion, to this Church or to that Church. Whatever our teachers may say, they must give us leave at least to think generously.”

Letter to James Craggs, Esq. Letter 3d. shews the liberal temper of his religious notions, and prove he was no bigot.—“ I am ambitious of nothing but the good opinion of good men on both sides; for I know that one virtue of a free spirit is worth more than all the virtues put together of all the narrow-souled people in the world.”

Letter to Mr Addison, 15. Letter to Mr Jervas, 23.—“ May all people do as you and I do, believe what they please, and be friends.”

To Edward Blount, Esq. Letter 1st, 2d. Letter 5th.—“ I am pretty sure you and I should no more make good Inquisitors to modern Tyrants in faith, than we could have been
qualified

qualified for Liſtors to Procuſtes, when he converted refractory members with the rack. In a word, I can only repeat to you what I think I have formerly ſaid, that I as little fear God will damn a man who has charity, as I hope that any prieſt can ſave him without it."

Letter to Mr Digby, 2d.—“As for all other virtues but this loyalty, they are an obſolete train; ſo ill dreſſed, that men, women and children hiſs them out of all good company."

To the Biſhop of Rocheſter.---“I fear there will be no way for me to tell you this truth, but that which no bills can exclude, and no Kings prevent."

Letter 7th, to Gay.---“Tell Dr Arbuthnot, that even pigeon pies and hogs puddings are become offenſive to our governors; for thoſe that have been ſent to the Biſhop of Rocheſter have been opened, and profanely pried into, in the Tower."

Letter 12.---“God is a better friend than a Court, even an honeſt man is a better."

Letter 16. on Court dependence, is too long to be quoted; one paſſage, however, deſerves it.---“There is a thing, the only thing Kings
and

and Queens cannot give you, for they have it not to give,—Liberty,—and which is worth all they have; which, as yet, I thank God, we need not ask from their hands.”

To the Earl of Peterborow, Letter 23d.—“I think ou are happy, my Lord, in being as much your own master as I am; and even with all the incumbrances of quality, parts, and honour, as mere a loiterer and gardener, as he who never had titles, or he from whom they are taken.” This reminds us of a great statesman of the present day.

Letter 2d to Mr Allen—“I am pleased to think my trees will afford fruit and shelter to others when I am no more. And it is no sort of grief to me that those others will not be things of my own body; but it is enough, they are creatures of the same species, and made by the same hand that made me.”—Thus I have, I trust, sufficiently proved that Pope was no bigot, like our author, either in Church or State; and that, in all his writings, he has shewn the wisdom of his own opinions.

In forms of government let fools contest,
That which is best administered is best, &c.

If

If any other man will undertake to prove the contrary, or even our author, in his own name, I will not hesitate to answer him ; for, if it can be proved that I have stated him partially, I am willing to acknowledge my error, and repent.

I will now go through the preface, the poems, and the notes, and make remarks on such parts of them as seem particularly to call for censure ; and first, it is worthy of notice, that the author's malignity or sagacity was not awake to the tendency of Mr Grattan's Address, till they were roused by the boisterous bellow of Dr Duigenan's answer, which, for elegance of language, force of argument, moderation of temper, liberality of sentiment, and all the other requisites of eloquence it displays, rivals, if not surpasses, the orations of those celebrated female speakers who are daily to be heard in the vicinity of London Bridge :—But, as the Doctor has not sufficiently besprinkled it, to our author's taste, with the seasonings of antient wisdom, he has supplied him, in his own way, with a quotation which puts him in the very place of Cicero, though

he has, he confesses, omitted some of the minuter "elegances"* which that antient orator thought it requisite to attend to.

"Against a man, who appears to have imposed upon his credulous country, under the pretence of brilliant and rhetorical talents."

Mr Grattan's exertions, as I have before noticed, have been something more than rhetorical flourishes.—I have hardly patience to expose the ignorance or brutal malice of the man who does not understand, or undervalues the benefit of Mr Grattan's exertions for his country in the years 1780 and 1782, and who dares to say that the concessions made to Ireland, or rather the rights extorted from this country, were in opposition to the true interests of either; it has been acknowledged on all hands, even by the friends of Ministry in both countries, that the prosperity of Ireland has rapidly encreased since that period; and is not the whole that Government pretend to do for Ireland now, an extension of those benefits? though it is easy to be perceived that what is given on the side of commerce, will be taken away on the side of independence and a resident

* Vide Johnson's Dictionary—*Elegancies*.

dent legislature: But if we are to understand the author's meaning rightly, it must be, that the independence then acquired by the Irish Parliament now proves an obstacle in the way of Ministry to compleat the wicked project of an unnatural union.—What must that man's idea of liberty and right be, who could dare to say that Ireland took an unfair advantage of this country, by seizing on an hour of weakness, to obtain what, in her full strength, she had refused to yield? he might as well say, that the slave who runs away from his master is acting dishonestly. It had never entered into the heart of man to reprobate the concessions made to Ireland, till the Union became the subject of discussion; then it was that our ministerial orators discovered that these concessions had been improvidently yielded, and that they may now be recalled.—Our author is anxious to have it remarked, that his sentiments were written in November, 1798;—did he then borrow them from the Ministers, or they from him? If he was in the secret, it will be easy to account for many of his opinions; if he was not, we must, at least, remark an

extraordinary coincidence of sentiment : But whatever either of them may say, that measure could only be impolitic, if justice and policy are ever at variance ; but let not our British name be tarnished by such a confession ! The Ministers may pursue, and, for a time, succeed in such crooked paths ; but the people of this country are liberal and just ;—and, let me tell this short-sighted politician, that whatever man, or set of men, expects, at this time of day, to govern a country by the sword, will in time find themselves fatally mistaken ; with such men, if there are any, I leave him to plot sanguinary systems of government, and return to Mr Grattan, whose residence, on the banks of the Thames, it seems has called up the ghost of Pope, to utter frightful rhimes.

“ In Mr Grattan’s Address we find, as I think, false facts, even of the day, false history, false reasoning, false premises, and false conclusions.”

It is much to be lamented that our author has not condescended to point out Mr Grattan’s false facts, false history, and false arguments ; as he has not, we must believe them
true;

true; for our author's mere *ipse dixit* will not overturn them, although no man seems to have a greater confidence in his own opinion.

"If I have read Mr Pope's works aright, I think he would, at this hour, have adopted the patriotick words of him, who declared that a Poet was nearly and closely allied to an Orator:

—"*Erigite animos; retinete vestram dignitatem. Manet illa in Republica bonorum consensio; dolor accessit bonis viris, virtus non est imminuta.*"

Such is the gentleman's itch for quotation, that he must needs infect Mr Pope, than whom no man was more free from it, or better understood how to chastise pedants.

"Upon this consideration, if Satire should exalt herself, and if her language should become bold and of ancient potency, it is unjust to attribute it to ill-nature or to malignity."

I am at a loss to discover how satire can be called bold; a satirist may be bold, but he is not so who conceals his name; till that is known, we are at liberty to judge of a man's motives as harshly as we please, and impute them either to malignity, or any thing worse, —to venality.

"A

“ A debt of gratitude we owe to our ancestors, who established our Constitution.” — To find out how much we have left of the Constitution established by our ancestors, was once attempted in the House of Commons, but the attempt was unsuccessful, not from a deficiency of matter, but for want of permission. — It is a question that might be easily determined out of the House, if it were worth the enquiry.

Whoever believes that the present restraints on liberty are only temporary, has a better opinion of Ministers than I have ; and whoever thinks that we are not yet to make greater sacrifices, both of liberty and property, knows little of them or of human nature ; they have gone too far to stop or to recede, and it is not in our power to prevent their going farther. — Time is big with great events—the French, as a people, have suffered much in this conflict ; we must do the same, for it is a trial of strength between the two Governments, not for victory but for existence. “ It is a war unsought and unprovoked by our aggressions.” Should the endeavours of Mr Francis, in his matchless pamphlet,

pamphlet, *The Question, as it stood in March, 1798*, to prove who were the aggressors, fail to produce conviction, I have no hope of succeeding: If I had not been satisfied before, I think I must have yielded to the truths it contains; but things do not appear the same to all men, and what convinces one will not convince another, or even the same man at different times, though truth remains in itself unaltered.

“ Upon the general issue; upon the great united contest; upon the powers of the North, and the strength of the East; on the Isles and the Continents of Europe, and of Asia; on the shores of the Mediterranean; through the Indian and Atlantick waves; on the states of America and the invaded deserts of Arabia, the Cause, ONE AND THE SAME, is now to be maintained, or lost for ever.”

The pompous paragraph, with which our Author concludes his preface, might have all been written in one line, the meaning the same, with less affected verbosity.

I will now consider the poem itself, and quote by the lines, as they are numbered.—
In the six first lines——

What accents, murmur'd o'er this hallow'd tomb,
Break my repose, deep-sounding through the gloom?
Would mortal strains immortal spirits reach,
Or earthly wisdom truth celestial teach?
Ah! 'tis no holy calm that breathes around:
Some warning voice invites to yonder ground.

it is difficult to affix any meaning; first, his repose is disturbed by "deep-sounding accents;" and then, in the fifth, "it is all a calm."——
Line 8.

I rous'd to notes of war my patriot lay.

When did Pope ever rouse his lyre to notes of war? he was no Poet-Laureat, no modern Tyrtæus.—Line 15.

Can touch my temper of ethereal mould.

I have heard of a mould of ethereal temper, but never a "temper of ethereal mould."——
Line 16.

Free as great Dryden, or as Milton bold.

If "free" mean independent, it is an unhappy epithet, for no man was less so than Dryden. "Loft" and "boast" make an excellent rhyme.
Line 25.

With him, whom Themis and the Muses court,
The learned Warden of the tatter'd Fort.

I have heard that George Hardinge courted "Themis," and very successfully; but I never heard that the "Muses" courted him, or any
body

body else; they are not such forward misses.—
The wretched pun on Ragman's Castle might
make one suspect that the author was of St.
John's, if he had not given many stronger
proofs that he is of Trinity.—Line 28,

While more than Gnomes along the meadows flit.

What he means by "more than Gnomes," I
much doubt if he knows; for Gnomes are no-
minal beings; and if you destroy their names,
you reduce them to nothing.—Line 39,

Hurl'd thee astounded with tumultuous fears.

"Astounded" is a word which Pope must have
blushed at.—Line 41,

For thee no vistas ope, no friendly glade.

When he next spells "vistas," let him be sure
he is right.—Line 56,

—————or humbled France;

"Humbled France," is a poetic fiction, which
I fear will never be realized.—Line 59,

Secure they own their Monarch's rightful rod.

A constitutional Monarch will not much thank
him for converting his sceptre into a "rod."—
Lines 107, 108,

Then if one honest pang should rend thy breast,
Look *homeward*—and let Conscience tell the rest.

Mr Grattan's "conscience" has little to suffer
D from

from the prospect of Ireland; the effect of all his measures has been peace and prosperity: But there are others, whose system has not been conciliation and concession, but violence and repulse:—Are their consciences as clear? —Whoever will honestly open his eyes to the Government of Ireland, for the last ten years, will be at no loss to trace to their source the whole of her present calamities. The bare-faced iniquity of her Ecclesiastical Establishment, is one great cause of her discontent. As soon as a prospect of relief was held out by Lord Fitzwilliam, the country was quiet and satisfied; but the moment these promises were forfeited, from that period the Catholics and Protestants united; and, seeing no remedy for their common sufferings by legal means, resorted to foreign and illegal aid: But the Government who drove them to seek that remedy, and not they, are in the fault. This argument has been repeatedly urged, and never yet answered, but by force.—Line 113,

Each smuggled honour from thy temples torn.

The honours and rewards bestowed on Mr
Grattan

Grattan were not "smuggled," but bestowed openly, by the unanimous voice of the people; and no man, who has any regard to truth, or knowledge of events, can affirm the contrary.

—Line 128,

So Gilray's patriot pencil rais'd the shrine.

That the hireling pencil of a paltry artist, without taste or fancy, can fully the lustre of Mr Fox's reputation, or disturb the tranquillity of his dreams, is too ludicrous not to raise a smile.

—Note to line 142,

"The Sovereignty of the People," as the English Jacobins echo it. I am astonished that such nonsensical democrattick babble can be endured any longer.

"The Sovereignty of the People" is a term as old as the Constitution. This "democratic babble," as our Author calls it, he perhaps does not know, is the language of Sydney, Milton, and Locke.—Line 217,

Pasiphaë smiles at Syphilitick stains;

But Home (n) sheds brazen tears, and Earle (n) complains.

(n) Everard Home and James Earle, Esqrs. two Surgeons of eminence in London.

—From the awkward manner of introducing men and subjects of all kinds, the Author seems

to consider his publications as a sort of Newspapers, in rhyme, for advertising his friends :— For what other purpose can Mr Home, the Surgeon, and many other men, whose works are no subject for literary criticism, be lugged in, and placed by the side of Dr Vincent and Mr Lysons. But, I believe, he begins to imagine, that his mention of a man with respect is a sufficient recommendation to him, and his sneer a damning sentence on every man and measure : Why else should he have introduced the subject of the Cow-Pox, with an attempt to be facetious ; a subject which is neither literary nor political, and as yet professedly a subject of medical discussion ;—till it is proved to be ridiculous, it does not deserve to be laughed at.— Are the patient investigations of science to be retarded, because they give offence to bigots, who startle at the thoughts of innovation, even in phisic and experimental philosophy ?

Line 227,

No virtue shines, but in the peasant's mien.

Has the Author read many of the German plays in the original ? If not, I hold him not qualified to decide : If he has, I defy him to prove,

prove, that virtue is there represented to belong exclusively to the lower ranks : That it is to be found there, as well as in the middle ranks, is undoubtedly true ; and that writer is a friend to human nature, who takes pains to inculcate, that it is not generally to be found in the higher : For whoever is acquainted with that rank, must know, that profligacy and debauchery, ignorance, contempt of religion, corruption, and insincerity, are no where to be so frequently met with. Riches harden the heart and corrupt the morals. Why was the *Jockey Club* proscribed ? but because it contained truths which could not be answered, and facts which could not be denied. But why our Author is particularly indignant against the German drama, it is not difficult to guess ; for there the vices of the great are impartially displayed, and the virtues of the lower and middle ranks are brought forward to notice ; the modest flowers that bloomed in secret are drawn from their obscurity. When poor men are virtuous, theirs are the virtues of nature and the heart, for they are little indebted to education ; but when a rich man is vicious, he flies in the face of nature
and

and education too. When a poor man is virtuous, with all disadvantages, against the temptations of poverty, and in spite of ignorance, he deserves to be noticed and rewarded; and when a rich man is vicious, in spite of all that education can do, he deserves to be marked with contempt.

Our Author seems to have drawn his ideas of the German plays from Schiller's *Robbers*, which is, perhaps, the only one he has read; and, judging nature only as he sees it in this country, thinks that impossible which he has never seen or heard: But let him read the dramas of the moral and pathetic Kotzebue;—he will there see, if he has any taste for nature and simple incidents, scenes which must affect and warm him; he will there see an author, inferior only to Shakespeare in speaking the language of nature; he will see characters, in all ranks, virtuous and worthy; he will see real life pourtrayed in real colours.—The comedy of *Falfe Shame* is, perhaps, the best, and well deserves to be translated and exhibited, as it will not fail to bring crowded audiences.

Such

+ We see here a proof of Mr. Burdons
bad taste. — He must also have had
strange notions of morality and taste.

Such is the Author's tender sensibility for the privileged vices of the great, that he cannot bear to have them touched ;—such is his admiration for the polished edifice of our present Society, that he cannot bear to have its weak parts exposed to view : But let him be careful lest this extreme aversion to repair does not, in the end, endanger the safety of the building. That State is bad indeed which cannot bear to be mended. He may write, and rail, and quote ; but, if Ministers go on as they have done, it will all be to no purpose. There are men who can feel, though they cannot think : Among such, the Taxes have made more Jacobins than the French. This may be treason,—but it is truth, confirmed by every day's experience.

Our Author, in a note, asks why most men of learning are, on the subjects of religion and politics, somewhat heretical ?—I will answer him. Learning makes, or ought to make men, high-minded, virtuous, and independent ; and no man, who is so, can look on the present corruptions of society with complacency.

Line

Line 258.—

And Darwin, fest'ring from the Horatian shaft.

A pretty specimen of our Author's modesty !
as if his coarse satire, and paltry rhyme, could
claim the praise of Horace.

Our Author's mistakes crowded on me so
fast, that, in my haste to notice them, I find I
have omitted to remark, at line 120,

One heart, one hand unite each sister realm,
Direct the force, and guide ONE COMMON HELM.

that, to "unite each" is not proper : You may
unite both, or two, but not each, or each other.
Why are the words, "one common helm," put
in capitals ?—Surely, in November, 1798, the
project of a Union was not publicly reported !

Line 122,—

By Twitnam's shore, or Windsor's royal grove.

"Twitnam's shore," is not a right expression.
You may talk of the shores of a country washed
by the sea, but not of the shores of a little vil-
lage, fifty miles from the coast.

Line 287,

But now I feel th' avenging thunder roar.

Will the Author be kind enough to tell us,
how he *feels* thunder roar ?

Line

Line 288,—

In British terror on the dusky shore.

I fear the Author's triumphs are somewhat checked by the late successes of the French, which they owe to the boasted victory of Lord Nelson: Had his valour and success been seconded by wisdom at home, we should either now have had Peace, or been engaged in an honest War,—a War of self-defence.

Line 299,—

*The Hellespont expands in timely pride;
Fleets not her own adown the current glide.*

Our good Ally, the Turk, will not thank him for yielding up so tamely the Hellespont to the Russians; nor is Pope much indebted to him for such lines.

For the conceited expression, line 302,—

And the dawn reddens with effectual light!

“effectual light,” neither authority nor meaning can be found.

To prove that the conduct of Pope must have been such as our Author supposes, he has not produced one passage from his life, or from his works; the whole rests on his bare affirmation,
and

and can only be believed by ignorance as great as his own;—and so much ignorance, with so much arrogance, are seldom to be found together: The first he contrives to hide behind a blaze of quotation, the other he never attempts to conceal; for it serves instead of better gifts, which Nature has denied him,—the power to argue, and the power to distinguish!

Such is the Author, whose merits I intend, hereafter, more fully to examine:—For the present I leave him to wallow in that “Serbo-nian bog,” to which he has condemned the Conqueror of Egypt. And if ever I hear of him again, except in his proper name, it will excite a smile, but not call forth an Answer.—He knows too well, I believe, the privileges of secrecy.

Finis.

